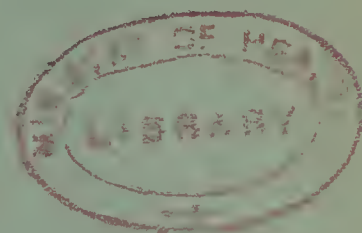


WEST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

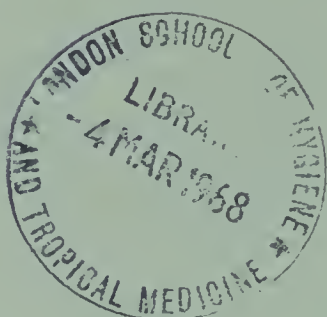
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1940.

HENRY ROGER, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
County Medical Officer

67180



*County Health Department,
Bury St. Edmund's.*

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of the County of West Suffolk for the year 1940.

The Ministry of Health have advised, as last year, that owing to the large amount of additional work falling on Public Health Departments and the need for economy in the use of paper, this report should be of an interim character.

The health of the County during the year has shown no appreciable deterioration and the Vital Statistics are satisfactory.

The normal Health Services have continued to maintain a satisfactory standard and have been extended to deal with the demands of war-time conditions. In this connection the County Scheme for Immunisation against Diphtheria, as described in the body of the report, is worthy of special mention.

All members of the Staff have given of their best and I gratefully acknowledge their loyal co-operation.

During a difficult year, the consideration and sympathetic help of the Public Health Committee have been a great encouragement.

I have the honour to be,


Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY ROGER.

County Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1941,



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ERRATUM

Page 12

Third paragraph, third line.

Delete ...this year the rate has shown ...

Substituto ... last year the rate showed ...

STAFF OF THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

(a) Medical and Dental Staff.

H. Roger, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., County Medical Officer, School Medical Officer, and Chief Tuberculosis Officer.
 R. H. Clayton, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H., Assistant County Medical Officer and District Medical Officer of Health.
 Alison J. Rae, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Assistant County Medical Officer.
 J. C. McFeely, L. and L.M., R.C.P., and R.C.S.I., D.P.H., Assistant County Medical Officer. (Resigned 31-8-40).
 Mary Campbell-Mackie, M.B., Ch.B. (Appointed 11-3-40, Resigned 19-9-40), Assistant County School Medical Officer.
 H. C. Price, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H. (Appointed 4-11-40), Assistant County Medical Officer.
 M. M. Haxton, L.D.S. (Resigned 30-6-40), Assistant Dental Surgeon.
 E. A. Haxton, L.D.S.
 A. Hay, L.D.S. (Appointed 26-2-40)

(b) Milk Officer.

W. Paterson, N.D.D., C.D.A.

(c) General Nursing Staff.

G. M. Penly Cooper, S.R.N., Certified Midwife, Chief Health Visitor.
 *L. Richardson, S.R.N. Health Visitor.
 B. W. Collins, S.R.N.
 *C. B. Coleman, S.R.N.
 E. Fletcher, Matron, County Sanatorium.
 J. Best (Resigned 11-5-40), Dental Attendant.
 N. Clayton (Resigned 5-10-40),
 B. Dawes (Appointed 20-2-40),
 F. Taylor (Appointed 6-5-40, Appointment terminated 31-7-40), Dental Attendant.
 M. Keeley (Appointed 7-10-40),

*These Officers hold the Health Visitors' Certificate.

(d) Home Teacher for the Blind.

M. D. Gourlay.

(e) Clerical Staff.

The Chief Clerk to the Department, Miss D. Kilner, is assisted by eight assistant clerks.

During the first half of the year an additional Assistant County School Medical Officer, Assistant Dental Officer, and Dental Attendant were employed to deal with the evacuated children. When, however, one of the Assistant School Medical Officers and one of the Assistant Dental Surgeons resigned, the number of evacuees did not appear sufficient to justify replacing these officers. Two additional clerks have been employed throughout the year. Four London County Council School Nurses were attached to the Department until Easter, when the number was reduced to two.

STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	..	..	390,916
Population (Estimated, 1940)—Urban	..	..	39,910
Rural	..	..	68,690
Administrative County	..	..	108,600
Rateable Value (General)	..	..	£447,741
Product of a Penny Rate (General)	..	..	£1,808

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

(A) Births.

Live Births—	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	1369	668	701
Illegitimate	49	22	27
Total Births	1418	690	728
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.1.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Still Births	48	28	20
Rate per 1,000 total births, 32.7.			

(B) Deaths.

Deaths	Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths	1576	765	811
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 14.5.			
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth—			
(a) from sepsis	..	..	Nil
(b) from other causes	..	..	2
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births	..	..	1.29
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	48.6
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	49.6
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	20.0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	1
Death from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	207

Birth Rate.

The Birth Rate was 13.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 14.0 for 1939, and 14.6 for England and Wales.

Death Rate.

The Death Rate was 14.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 13.6 for 1939, and 14.3 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality.

The rate for the Administrative County of 48.6 per 1,000 live births shows an increase of 12.8 on the figure for last year. In spite of this, however, the rate for the County is still lower than that for England and Wales, which was 55.

Maternal Mortality.

The Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births was 1.29 compared with 2.56 for 1939 and a rate of 2.16 for England and Wales.

In 1940 there were two maternal deaths, which figure is a decrease of 2 on the figure for last year.

Zymotic Deaths.

A total of 11 zymotic deaths was returned. A summary of the causes of death is as follows:—Diphtheria, 4; Cerebro-spinal fever, 4; Typhoid fever, 1; Scarlet fever, 1; Whooping-cough, 1. The Zymotic Death Rate was .10.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The arrangements with the West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmund's, for general pathological work, with the East Suffolk County Laboratory, Ipswich, for milk tests and other bacteriological examinations, with King's College Hospital, London, for the examination of blood specimens under the Venereal Diseases Scheme, and with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge, have been continued.

The total number of examinations undertaken by the Laboratory at the West Suffolk General Hospital during the year, for the County Council, was 1,038. In addition 511 examinations were undertaken for the White Lodge Emergency Hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

General provision is made by the British Red Cross Society, who acquired two new ambulances during the year, one for Bury St. Edmund's and one for Brandon, bringing their total number in the County up to six. The ambulance provided by a local voluntary Society at Haverhill is also still in use.

Under the Air Raid Precautions Scheme there were, at the end of the year, thirty-one ambulances, of which twenty-one were converted vehicles and ten 'buses or vans. There were also forty "sitting case cars." These vehicles have been used when dealing with the removal of evacuees to institutions or treatment centres.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

No change has taken place in the general Nursing service for the County, which is organised through the West Suffolk County Nursing Association.

HOSPITALS.

The hospital services for general purposes remain unchanged. As reported last year, the West Suffolk General Hospital has been classified as a class I. (a) hospital under the Emergency Hospital Scheme, and during the year the new block started before the war and the remaining of the six huts erected by arrangement with the Ministry of Health have come into use, bringing the number of beds up to approximately 400.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

A routine inspection of all registered Nursing Homes has been carried out, as in previous years, by the Superintendent Health Visitor. At the end of the year there were eight such homes, providing 22 beds for Maternity Cases and 250 for other cases. Three applications for exemption from registration were received and granted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.

Institutional Medical Services.

The Ministry of Health decided not to up-grade the Public Assistance Institution at Bury St. Edmund's, in view of the fact that extra emergency hospital accommodation was being provided at the West Suffolk General Hospital.

At White Lodge, Newmarket, the Ministry decided to erect fifteen huts to be used as wards, six on land belonging to the Council, and nine on land adjoining the Institution. The "House" portion of the Institution was taken over under the Emergency Hospital Scheme and a scheme for converting it into a Nurses' home to provide for 57 sisters and nurses was approved by the Ministry.

The proposed increase in the number of beds necessitated the use of a larger room as a laboratory than the one already fitted up for this purpose, the conversion of the Store into an X-ray developing room, and the provision of additional equipment in the kitchen and laundry to bring these services up to the needs of a modern hospital.

As the huts have come into use, the medical staff has been increased and appointments have been made to all the ancillary services.

As a result of the whole of White Lodge being taken over under the Emergency Hospital Scheme, the Institutions at Bury St. Edmund's and Sudbury had to be used for all the chronic sick of the County. In addition, by arrangement with the Ministry of Health, a number of aged and infirm and chronic sick people were received from evacuation areas. The available accommodation was taxed to the uttermost, and considerable re-arrangement had to be undertaken in order to provide the maximum degree of comfort in the circumstances. Amongst other changes, the modern casual wards at Sudbury were successfully converted into sick wards.

These changes involved a considerable amount of extra work for the staff of these two institutions and credit is due to them, and in particular to the Masters and Matrons, for the very willing and efficient service rendered.

The Ministry of Health considered bringing Risbridge Home, Kedington, into the Emergency Hospital Scheme, but decided not to do so, and it has therefore remained as an institution for mental defectives. As the old Nursery was unoccupied the forty beds available there were utilised as a Sick Bay for evacuee children, when the need for such accommodation became urgent after the Government Evacuation Scheme, Plan VII., came into operation in September. By the end of the year twenty-six children suffering from various minor illnesses, who could not be conveniently nursed in their billets, had been admitted.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

MIDWIFERY.

(a) General.

The arrangement for carrying out the midwifery service of the County through the County Nursing Association has continued in force, as have also the ante-natal, post-natal, and consultative and emergency unit services.

The number of midwives practising at the end of the year in the area served by the Council was eighty-five. In 1940 the midwives attended by themselves nine hundred and twenty cases, while in four hundred and eighty-nine cases they acted as Maternity Nurses, there being a practitioner in attendance. Medical help was called by midwives in a total of three hundred and eighty-seven cases, which represents a percentage of 42.06. In three hundred and forty-four of these cases medical help was sought in respect of the mother, and in forty-three cases in respect of the baby.

A total of four hundred and forty-one ante-natal examinations, including seventy-nine second examinations, were made. This figure represents 39.35 per cent. of the total domiciliary cases taken by the midwives during 1940. Eighty-seven post-natal examinations were made during the period.

(b) Evacuated Women.

As no further parties of expectant mothers were evacuated to this County during the early part of the year, it was considered uneconomical to keep open the Alexandra Home for the few odd cases that might occur from time to time, and it was consequently closed on March 9th, but retained on a care and maintenance basis. At the same time, on the instructions of the Ministry of Health, the appointment of Professor Amy Fleming as consultant gynaecologist was terminated.

On September 19th, the Home was re-opened when a party of thirty-one expectant mothers was sent from London by road. Later more arrived with various parties of women and children sent under the Government Evacuation Scheme, Plan VII. and singly, as unofficial evacuees, from the London and coastal areas. Two midwives were sent from London, but the rest of the staff was engaged locally, the matron of the Public Assistance Institution at Bury St. Edmund's being responsible for the nursing administration of the Home.

During the first quarter of the year 12 births occurred in the Home, and during the last quarter there were 68.

During the first quarter of the year Professor Fleming, assisted by Dr. Rae, conducted ante-natal clinics at Bury St. Edmund's and Sudbury. After the Alexandra Home was reopened in September, ante-natal supervision was provided there for those women who were billeted near enough to attend. Those who were unable, on account of distance, to do so, were referred to the district nurses, and the domiciliary medical service under the Council's Ante-Natal Scheme was available for them.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF SPECIAL NATURE.

Seven cases of puerperal pyrexia or fever were notified during the year. One of these occurred in an institution, two were removed to hospital, and in the other cases the necessary facilities for treatment were available.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES AND HOME VISITING AND SUPERVISION.

The fifteen Infant Welfare Centres maintained and staffed by the County Council have been continued throughout the year. They have been open to evacuees, who are more ready to attend such clinics than the local women, and in consequence, the numbers have gone up, particularly after September when the Government Evacuation Scheme, Plan VII., came into operation. This was so apparent in Hadleigh and Haverhill that arrangements had to be made at the end of the year to hold the clinics in those places twice a month instead of once.

During the year a total of 5,167 attendances (5,030 in 1939, 5,110 in 1938, 4,992 in 1937, 4,162 in 1936) were made by children attending these centres; of these 2,261 attendances were made by children under one year of age.

The number of children who attended for the first time was 642 (550 in 1939, 457 in 1938, 429 in 1937, and 441 in 1936), and this number included 430 children under the age of one year.

In most areas of the County the health visiting of children under five years of age, has been carried out, as previously, by the district nurses, who for this purpose act as servants of the Council. In the few districts where, on account of pressure of work, this was not possible, the work was carried out by the County health-visitors.

The total number of visits paid during the year was 17,098. This included 4,614 visits to children under one year of age and 12,484 to children between the ages of one and five.

A number of mothers and young children arrived in the County under the various Government Evacuation Schemes, and these were visited in the routine way by the health visitors, who also assisted at the medical inspection of the official parties on arrival. Various problems arose in dealing with these people, whose standards of personal hygiene in many cases were lower than those of our own population, and in consequence, many visits were undertaken by the health visitors at the request of the Local Authorities, Billeting Officers, Teachers, and householders.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The County health visitors have continued to visit regularly all children registered under Section 206 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the work has proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

The statistical details of the year's work are as follows :—

Number of cases on Register, 1-1-40	..	..	..	138
Number of New Cases	..	..	..	43
Number returned to parents	..	..	..	5
Number adopted	..	..	..	2
Number died	..	..	..	—
Number who attained 9 years of age	..	..	..	28
Number who left County	..	..	..	23
Number transferred to Public Assistance Institutions	..			3
Number of cases on Register, 31-12-40	..	..	..	120
Number of unsatisfactory cases	..	..	..	—

COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS SERVICE.

GENERAL STATISTICAL FACTS.

Sixty-eight new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1940 ; this is a decrease of thirteen on the corresponding figure for 1939 and is a decrease of fourteen on that for 1938.

The new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year numbered twenty-four, which is a decrease of three on the figure for the previous year.

During the year a total of forty-three deaths was recorded, thirty-four being pulmonary cases and nine being non-pulmonary cases. In the previous year the total deaths were sixty, comprising fifty-one pulmonary cases and nine non-pulmonary cases.

The death rate from tuberculosis in 1940 was .40, the corresponding figure in 1939 being .58.

The number of notified cases on the Register at the end of the year was three hundred and thirty-five. The number on the Register shows a decrease of thirty-six on the figure for the previous year.

I submit herwith a Table of New Cases reported in 1940, together with a summary of the total deaths from tuberculosis in the area during the year.

NEW CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1940.

New Cases.					Deaths.				
Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	1
5	—	1	3	—					
10	2	—	4	1	5	1	—	—	—
15	2	5	1	—	15	12	9	1	2
20	2	7	1	—					
25	12	9	4	1					
35	5	5	—	3	45	6	4	1	1
45	2	6	1	2					
55	6	1	—	—	65	1	1	1	—
65 and upwards	1	2	—	1					
Totals	32	36	16	8	Totals ...	20	14	5	4

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The general arrangements for this service have continued unchanged, and the numbers dealt with do not appear to have been affected by war conditions.

The treatment of these diseases is mainly carried out at the County Clinic, which is held weekly at Westgate House, Bury St. Edmund's, on Wednesday mornings. In some cases patients living in the out-lying parts of the County find it more convenient, on account of transport facilities, to attend the clinics at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich.

In 1940 the total number of cases treated by the County Venereal Diseases Officer was twenty-seven, and of these thirteen were new cases seen for the first time during the year. In addition, ten new cases were treated at outside centres. There were, therefore, twenty-three West Suffolk cases in 1940. The diagnoses returned in respect of these cases was Syphilis 1, Gonorrhœa 7, and other conditions 15.

During the year 36 specimens were sent to laboratories for examination from the clinic at Bury St. Edmund's; 23 of these were blood specimens for Wassermann test.

The number of attendances at Bury St. Edmund's were 239, at Cambridge 48, and at Ipswich 7.

HOUSING.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 to 1938.

No grants were promised by the County Council under these Acts during the year.

Housing Acts, 1936 and 1938.

During the year, the statutory grant of £1 per annum per house for 40 years was made, under these Acts, to the following District Councils:—

Clare	R.D.C.	in respect of	146	houses
Cosford	R.D.C.	„ „ „	102	„
Thingoe	R.D.C.	„ „ „	193	„
Total			441	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

(1) General Bulk Milk.

In 1940 twenty-seven samples of bulk milk were examined. Eight samples failed in the Methelyne Blue Test and ten in the B. Coli test. Tubercle bacilli were not found in any case.

(2) Milk. (Special Designations Order).

Throughout the year efforts have been continued to maintain a decent standard of clean milk production.

One of the first duties of a Public Health Authority is to ensure a reasonably clean and safe food supply. Medical Authority is unanimous as to the important part that milk plays in the nutrition of the nation but the milk must be clean and safe. To produce clean milk consistently we must have clean methods, clean equipment, and clean cows. In other words, conditions should be such that it may reasonably be expected that the milk can be produced and delivered at all times of the year in accordance with the present standards.

If these standards are adhered to, not only is the public health safeguarded, but, and this is especially important in war-time, much wastage, due to souring, of a valuable food supply is prevented.

There has, during the year, been noted a tendency to a deterioration in the standard among certain producers; many and varied reasons are brought forward as an excuse for failure to comply with the required standards, or as a reason why the present standards should be relaxed—all bearing on war conditions such as “black out” difficulties and difficulties in procuring labour and equipment, etc. But it has been noted that all of these conditions can be overcome by a producer of good will, and that these war-time difficulties are in the main met

by the producer who in peace-time showed an inclination to exaggerate difficulties, and an impatience with the supervision that was required in order that he should comply with the regulations for clean milk production.

The Public Health Committee decided therefore that no relaxation in the standard of clean milk production should be permitted.

Accredited Milk Licences.

132 Producer's Licences were issued, of which 4 were recommended for the first time. During the year 4 Licences were withdrawn. At the end of the year there were 128 herds on the Accredited Register.

Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences.

30 T.T. Licences were issued during the year, 1 of which was for the first time. (5 of these licences were for Attested herds). During the year 1 T.T. Licence was suspended and 4 were cancelled.

(3) Veterinary Inspection of Cattle.

The Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has supplied the following statistics of his work during the year. 4,544 cattle in 57 Tuberculin Tested herds, 15,007 cattle in 496 Accredited herds, and 6,105 cattle in 800 non-designated herds were inspected. 24 animals were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order, and 294 animals in Tuberculin Tested herds were found to be re-actors.

(4) Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Inspections of two herds were made under this order. In one case ten group samples and eight individual samples of milk were taken, and one cow was slaughtered. In the other case five group samples were taken, one of which was found to contain tubercle bacilli. Individual samples were therefore taken from the animals involved in the group sample, and one cow was slaughtered.

(5) Milk in Schools Scheme.

Difficulties were encountered during the year with regard to this scheme, and a few schools lapsed temporarily, but the efforts made to continue it and to extend it to schools not previously included proved, in the main, successful. The scheme has been extended to evacuee children, whether attending local schools or schools set up specially. The following table shows the position at the end of the year, as compared with 1939.

		1939.		1940.	
		<i>Local.</i>	<i>Evacuees.</i>	<i>Local.</i>	<i>Evacuees.</i>
Number of Schools with Scheme	..	142		139	
Number of Children taking milk	..	5692	869	6376	1941
Number of Children attending these					
Schools	.. .. .	10581	2088	10332	3148

(b) SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The following is a note of the work carried out under these Acts in 1940 :—

During the year, one hundred and ninety-nine samples were taken and analysed : Baking Powder, 5 ; Beef Sausage, 5 ; Beef Suet, 4 ; Brown Sugar, 1 ; Butter, 15 ; Cheese, 4 ; Cinnamon, 1 ; Glauber Salts, 1 ; Cooking Fat, 3 ; Crab Paste, 1 ; Custard Powder, 1 ; Corn Flour, 1 ; Ice Cream, 1 ; Strawberry Jam, 3 ; Raspberry Jam, 1 ; Black-currant Jam, 2 ; Greengage Jam, 1 ; Lard, 1 ; Lardex, 1 ; Lemon Barley, 1 ; Liquor Iodi Mitis, 1 ; Margarine, 4 ; Milk, 119 ; Mint, 1 ; Pepper, 1 ; Pork Sausage, 6 ; Saccharin, 1 ; Sage, 1 ; Sauce, 1 ; Sago, 1 ; Sausage, 1 ; Sugar Substitute, 1 ; Sugarette, 1 ; Sweetarin, 1 ; Sweet Spirit of Nitre, 1 ; Syrup of Figs, 1 ; Tea, 2 ; Vinegar, 1 ; Whisky, 1.

Of the 199 samples taken, 169 were found to be genuine, and 24 of milk, 2 of baking-powder, 1 of butter, 2 of black-currant jam, and 1 of raspberry jam were found to be adulterated.

(c) NUTRITION.

Last year I reported that the classification of the children routinely inspected showed a considerable improvement in their general nutrition. The figures this year show a further increase of 2 per cent. in those with excellent nutrition, but a decrease of 3.1 per cent. of those with normal nutrition. It will be seen from the following table that the percentage of evacu-

ated children with excellent nutrition is higher than the local children, but the percentage of these children with normal nutrition is lower. The percentage of those with sub-normal nutrition is practically the same as the local children.

					1939.	1940.	
						<i>Local.</i>	<i>Evacuees.</i>
Number of children examined	..	..	..	..	3624	3612	2848
Excellent nutrition	..	..	..	..	18.0%	20.0%	22.9%
Normal nutrition	..	..	..	..	74.0%	70.9%	68.1%
Slightly sub-normal nutrition	..	..	..	..	7.4%	8.4%	8.8%
Bad nutrition	..	..	..	..	.6%	.7%	.2%

It has been noted that the general health and physique of the London children improves after they have settled in their new surroundings.

Free Milk in Schools.

The schemes for supplying free milk to medically necessitous children, local and evacuees, as described in previous Reports, have been continued. During the year 111 cases were referred for investigation, and at the end of the year 123 children were receiving free milk.

Dinners in Schools.

The schemes for providing dinners in schools, as described in my Report for 1939, have been continued as far as possible, and in several schools emergency schemes for providing soup, etc., have been introduced.

Milk for Nursing and Expectant Mothers and Young Children.

The Government Scheme for the provision of milk for nursing and expectant mothers and young children came into operation in August and consequently after that date the provision of free milk to mothers and children by the Council was curtailed so far as dried milk was concerned. Cows' milk, however, was still given, where this was advised in necessitous cases, and dried milk was provided at cost price in cases where the brands previously supplied by the Council were advised. Dried milk can be provided free of charge if this is considered necessary.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(a) Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1940.

								Total Cases	
								<i>Notified.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Scarlet-fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	481	1
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106	4
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	—
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72	—
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	4
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	338	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	151	1

(b) Infectious Diseases and School Children.

During 1940, 1 school was closed on account of the following outbreak of infectious disease :—Measles, 1.

During the year 258 Low Attendance Certificates were issued by the Medical Department in respect of the following conditions :—

Whooping Cough 20, Measles 5, Chicken Pox 29, Influenza 19, Measles and Influenza 1, German Measles 5, German Measles and Influenza 1, Influenza and Colds 29, German Measles and Whooping Cough 1, Measles and Chicken Pox 3, Whooping Cough and Influenza 2, Coughs and Colds 87, Scarlet Fever 2, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough 1, Whooping Cough and Colds 8, Chicken Pox, Impetigo and Influenza 1, German Measles, Measles, Ringworm and Colds 1, Influenza, Colds and Chicken Pox 1, German Measles, Measles, Ringworm and Colds 1, Influenza, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, and Colds 2, Colds, Influenza and Mumps 1, Chicken Pox, German Measles and Influenza 1, Measles and Colds 2, Chicken Pox, Impetigo and Colds 1, Colds, Bronchitis, Influenza and Tonsillitis 1, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Impetigo, German Measles, Influenza and Colds 1, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough, German Measles and Influenza 1, Influenza and Chicken Pox 3, Impetigo and Chicken Pox 2, Scarlet Fever and Chicken Pox 4, Influenza, German Measles and Ringworm 2, Chicken Pox, German Measles and Measles 3, Whooping Cough and Measles 1, Mumps, German Measles and Chicken Pox 1, Scarlet Fever, Chicken Pox and German Measles 1, Impetigo, Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever 1, Scarlet Fever and Colds 2, Measles and Chicken Pox 1, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria 3, Chicken Pox and Colds 4, Measles, Chicken Pox and Colds 3.

(c) Infectious Disease Hospital for Evacuees.

With the approval of the Ministry of Health, Highbury House, a private house in Bury St. Edmund's, was requisitioned by the Bury St. Edmund's Borough Council, on behalf of the County Council, and was opened on November 25th, 1940, as a hospital for evacuated children suffering from minor infectious diseases, who could not conveniently be nursed in their billets.

The Hospital contains 20 beds, and was furnished and equipped by the Ministry of Health.

Medical supervision is provided by the staff of the Public Health Department. A nursing staff, supervised by the Chief Health Visitor, is provided through the Civil Nursing Reserve.

Since it was opened full use has been made of it, thus proving the need for such accommodation. Up to the end of the year 6 cases of measles, and 11 of whooping cough had been admitted.

(d) Treatment of Scabies.

In my Report for 1939, I reported that a treatment clinic for this disease had been set up at one of the Public Assistance Institutions. This clinic has continued to function throughout 1940. It was held generally once a week, but on occasions it was found necessary to hold two sessions during the week. During the year 397 cases, including 299 school-children, 45 children under school age and 53 adults were dealt with.

The procedure adopted was to convey the patients, with all their bedding and clothes, to the Institution where the clinic was held, keep them over-night and return them next day to their homes or billets, treated and with their clothes disinfected. The method of ascertainment was from teachers, billeting officers, householders and clinics, and from the continuous visits by the two London School Nurses, who also carried out the treatment, and followed up the cases treated. During the latter part of the year the time of these two nurses was practically entirely taken up with this work. In spite of this, cases continued to occur, and in increasing numbers, especially after further evacuations had taken place.

The causes of the increased incidence are, I think, the influx of further evacuees, the spread from evacuees to the normal population, scabies having been very rare in the County before the war, visits to evacuees by relatives infected, inefficient treatment at home with a consequent spreading, the failure to produce all infected clothing for disinfection, and the subsequent reception into the household of infected clothing. Also I think that it has been established without doubt that infection has been brought in by members of the Forces.

In a letter to the Ministry of Health on the subject I suggested that to combat this spread it would be necessary in all areas :—

“ 1. To institute some form of propaganda to stress the serious infectivity of the complaint, to point out that it is a disease of dirt, that it is necessary to attack it strenuously and also to point out the great importance of disinfection of all clothing.

2. To secure a complete system of ascertainment; when a case is found domiciliary visits should be paid and any suspicious cases and all members of the family, including adults, inspected and offered treatment. I think that this disease is found to be more widespread than we imagine. I base this information on our experience here: in spite of the fact that we have two health visitors doing nothing else but looking for it and treating it, we still have it reported by teachers. It is discovered by the School Medical Officers at their routine school inspections, and, as we recently found, during immunisation work. We also find it at Welfare Clinics when the doctor has been consulted about something quite different, and we have even got information of other cases from persons already infected who have come in for treatment.

3. To organise some more official efficient method of dealing with the disease. This treatment I think should be done at a cleansing centre, certainly in rural areas where the necessary bathing facilities are lacking. It might be worth considering setting up a central cleansing station, say at an Emergency Hospital, where treatment would be available continuously. The benzyl benzoate treatment appears efficient and the short period of stay is a great consideration. I do not consider that Public Assistance Institutions or Sick Bays are proper places for the treatment of scabies. In my own County we are coming to the stage when we have a waiting list, even with a double session a week, and of course this is all in favour of a continuous spread of the disease. In the treatment, of course, disinfection of the clothing, etc., is all important so that disinfection and treatment should always go hand in hand. It happens that in our area when the cleansing station is the Public Assistance Institution there is a disinfector on the spot so that this matter presents no difficulties. I find it very useful to call in the help of the local Sanitary Inspector to insure that all infected clothing has been removed. In addition, I think that the presence of a Sanitary Inspector is very salutary.

4. To make sure that effective steps are being taken by the military and other services to ascertain and deal with cases among their personnel. I mention that we have traced infection on several occasions to members of the forces.

5. To consider the question of notification. I know that for the time being this question has been ruled out, the argument against it being of course that doctors are not called in: my experience here is that we get very few notifications of the occurrence of the disease from medical practitioners, but the good effects of notification might be that one could exert some sort of compulsion to secure efficient treatment both of adults and children."

(e) Immunisation against Diphtheria.

In October, 1940, the Urban District Council of Newmarket, and in November, 1940, the Urban District Council of Haverhill, decided to undertake a scheme for immunising against diphtheria the children in their area. In each case the sanction of the Ministry of Health and the co-operation of the County Council was obtained, the County Education Committee putting at the disposal of the District Councils the use of their school buildings, and enlisting the services of their School Medical Staff and Teachers for the purpose. The Toxin was obtained from the Emergency Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Cambridge, and valuable assistance was rendered by Dr. Downie, the Pathologist from the Laboratory, and his Staff. The percentage of the total number of children in the area immunised was very high in both districts.

In circular 2230, in December, 1940, the Ministry of Health urged on all District Councils the importance of instituting schemes for the immunisation against diphtheria of all children under 16 years of age, and gave approval for the provision of facilities for such immunisation to all Authorities who had not already obtained it. They also provided for a sufficient supply of toxin at the Emergency Public Health Laboratories to be available to Local Authorities, free on application.

As a result of this circular the remaining District Councils in the County all adopted immunisation schemes, and have sought the co-operation of the County Council. As in the case of the Districts already immunised, the County Education Committee offered the use of their schools and the services of the School Medical Staff and Teachers, and arrangements were made for the work to be carried out early in the new year. The scheme was advertised as widely as possible by the District Councils and the willing co-operation given by the teachers proved invaluable, both in securing the consent of the parents, and in actually assisting at the schools with the immunisation.

(f) **Cancer.**

The arrangements for the treatment of patients suffering from Cancer were as in previous years. Thirteen cases were admitted to the Council's Institutions.

During the year 207 deaths from cancer occurred. This number is 13.1% of the total deaths. The following Table shows the age distribution :

Deaths from Cancer, 1940.

	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-	Total
Males	—	—	3	33	71	107	
Females	—	—	10	31	59	100	
Total	—	—	13	64	130	207	

(g) **Epidemic of Dysentery.**

In April an outbreak of dysentery occurred in the Public Assistance Institution at Sudbury. 18 members of the staff and 38 patients were affected. The most serious cases occurred amongst the aged women, 5 of whom died. All possible precautions to prevent the spread of infection were taken and the epidemic was confined to the female and children's wards. The Institution was closed to new admissions until all fear of infection was past.

The epidemic was reported to the Ministry of Health, and investigations were carried out by Dr. Ormiston of the Medical Research Council, who reported that the facts provided reasonable evidence that the organism was introduced by an unrecognised case or carrier. This would also explain the limitation of the outbreak to a well-defined section of the hospital.

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

(1) **GENERAL REPORT ON THE SERVICE IN WEST SUFFOLK.**

Registration.

There were 207 registered blind persons in the County, the age groups being as follows :—

Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Period.	Age Unknown.	Total.
0—5	5—16	16—21	21—50	50—65	65—70	Over 70		
—	6	2	31	74	25	69	—	207

In addition, 32 blind persons were evacuated to the County during the year. Of these, 13 subsequently left, leaving 24 in the County on March 31st, 1941.

Institutions.

Ten persons were maintained in Public Assistance Institutions, four in special Schools, and four in Institutions for the Mentally Defective.

Work of Home Teacher and Visitor.

The Home Teacher has paid 900 visits during the year, and given 2 lessons in Braille, 4 in Moon type, 8 in handicrafts, and 2 in the Manual Alphabet.

Home Workers.

The arrangement with the Norwich Institution for the Blind for the supervision of the Home Workers in the County is still in force. There were five such workers recognised under the scheme.

Workshop Workers.

Two persons were maintained in Institutions for the Blind, where they were employed in their workshops.

Other Workers.

In addition to the recognised " Home Workers," eight persons were employed in remunerative occupations, as follows :—Basket and Cane workers, 2 ; Boot repairer, 1 ; Braille Copyist, 1 ; Wood-worker, 1 ; others, 3.

Training.

In addition to sending blind children to special schools, the Education Committee undertake the training of blind adults on the advice of the County Medical Officer. One such girl received training at the Norwich Institution for the Blind.

Domiciliary Assistance.

At the end of the year, 89 blind persons, including 10 evacuees, were in receipt of domiciliary assistance.

(2) WEST SUFFOLK VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.

The social activities of the Association have necessarily been curtailed owing to war conditions, but it has continued to render valuable service by giving assistance outside the scope of the County Council, to necessitous cases.

Population, Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Deaths classified according to Diseases.

DISTRICT.	Population	Birth Rate.	Gross Death Rate.	Adjusted Death Rate.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Whooping Cough.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.	Other Tubercular Diseases.	Syphilitic Diseases.	Diabetes.	Cancer.	Intra-cran. Vasc. lesions.	Heart Disease.	Other Circulatory Diseases.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	Appendicitis.	Other Digestive Diseases.	Nephritis.	Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis.	Other maternal causes.	Premature Birth.	Cont. mal: birth inf.	Suicide.	Road Traffic Accidents.	Other violent causes.	All other causes.	All causes.			
<i>Boroughs and Urban—</i>																																								
Bury St Edmund's	17060	13.7	13.8	12.4							1	6	8	2	3	2	28	21	78	15	11	12	3	1	1	1	4	7			3	10	3	1	4	11	236			
Hadleigh ...	2967	13.5	9.8	8.7		1							1			6	1	6			6										1	1					6	29		
Haverhill ...	3797	14.5	15.0	11.9									1	1		9	6	21	5	1	3	2	1				1				1	1	2				3	57		
Newmarket ...	9420	10.6	11.6	9.6					1		1	1	3			2	13	10	23	2	9	4	5	1	1		4				2	2	2	1	4	20	109			
Sudbury ...	6666	8.9	16.8	12.6								8	1	3	1	1	10	14	26	4	15	2	2			6							1			1	18	112		
Totals ...	39910	12.2	13.6	11.4	1	1					2	15	14	5	4	4	66	52	154	26	42	21	10	5	1	2	14	8			5	14	6	4	9	58	543			
<i>Rural—</i>																																								
Clare ...	8237	13.6	16.9	13.0								3	1			1	1	21	20	36	4	8	2	2	6			3	3				2	3	3	8	12	139		
Cosford ...	9956	12.1	14.8	12.7					1			9	3	1	1	2	24	14	36	1	8	7	2	2	1		2	9				1	2		1	1	1	19	147	
Melford ...	12366	11.5	15.8	12.1					1			8	3	1	2	31	23	44	9	14	4			2			6	5			2	2	2	1	3	7	22	195		
Mildenhall ...	12970	15.0	13.2	11.7					1	1	1	2	3	1		1	25	18	42	2	10	5	1	4			1	8			2	4	2	1	5	3	5	30	171	
Thedwastre ...	8851	12.3	14.9	11.8								4	2			3	17	22	47	5	4	4	2			3	2				1	1	2	2	1	1	10	132		
Thingoe ...	16310	15.5	15.3	13.3								1	6	8	1		23	25	75	18	12	6	3	1	1		7	7			1	4	7	1	3	5	34	249		
Totals ...	68690	13.5	15.0	12.3	1	1	1		1	3	3	23	20	4	4	9	141	122	280	39	56	28	10	15	2	2	22	34			2	10	18	9	13	27	127	1038		
Grand Totals	108600	13.1	14.5			1	1		1	4	4	47	34	9	8	13	207	174	434	65	98	49	20	20	3	4	36	42			2	15	32	15	17	36	185	1576		